

REMARKS

Claim 1 requires temporarily flattening a sheet by applying a flattening force to the center of the sheet. Further, it requires securing the sheet to the second sheet "while continuing to hold the center of the sheet in a flat configuration."

Previously, the limitation of securing the sheet to the second sheet, while continuing to hold said sheet in a flattened configuration, was rejected based on the element 608, shown in Figure 43A. But this element clearly applies no flattening force to the center. To the contrary, it applies the force edgewise and could not possibly apply a centering force.

Now the claim has been amended to require securing said sheet to a second sheet while continuing to hold the center of the sheet in a flattened configuration. Even more clearly, the limitation distinguishes the cited reference.

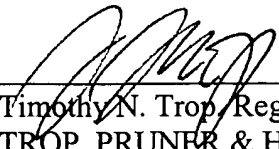
In the latest office action, the Examiner points to the element shown in Figure 4, and says that would flatten the sheet in the center. But, even if it does, this would not matter. That is because the claim requires that that flattening force be continued at the time the sheets are joined. This does not happen. The thing shown in Figure 4 is long gone at the time the sheets are put together. It would have to be because it would interfere with the joining of the sheets.

Therefore, the cited reference distinctly and clearly teaches away from the claimed invention. It teaches doing exactly the opposite of what is claimed and the other cited reference cannot overcome this deficiency.

Therefore, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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